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1. REPORT DATE (DD-MM-YYYY) 10-07-2008	2. REPORT TYPE Journal Article	3. DATES COVERED (From - To)		
<b>4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE</b>  <b>Energetic Ionic Liquids Based on Anionic Rare Earth Nitrate Complexes (Preprint)</b>			5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
			5b. GRANT NUMBER	
			5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
<b>6. AUTHOR(S)</b> Guo-Hong Tao, Yangen Huang, & Jean'ne M. Shreeve (University of Idaho); Jerry A. Boatz (AFRL/RZSP)			5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
			5e. TASK NUMBER	
			5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER 50260541	
<b>7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)</b>  Air Force Research Laboratory (AFMC) AFRL/RZSP 10 E. Saturn Blvd. Edwards AFB CA 93524-7680			<b>8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER</b>  AFRL-RZ-ED-JA-2008-332	
<b>9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)</b>  Air Force Research Laboratory (AFMC) AFRL/RZS 5 Pollux Drive Edwards AFB CA 93524-7048			<b>10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)</b>	
			<b>11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S NUMBER(S)</b> AFRL-RZ-ED-JA-2008-332	
<b>12. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT</b>  Approved for public release; distribution unlimited (PA #08330A).				
<b>13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES</b> For publication in Chemistry – A European Journal.				
<b>14. ABSTRACT</b>  Energetic ionic liquids based on anionic rare earth nitrate complexes, $\text{Cat}^+ \text{[Ln}(\text{NO}_3)_6\text{]}^{3-}$ , where $\text{Cat}^+$ is guanidinium, 4-amino-triazolium, 1-methyl-4-amino-triazolium, 1-ethyl-4-aminotriazolium, 1-butyl-4-amino-triazolium, 1,5-diamino-tetrazolium, and 1,5-diamino-4-methyltetrazolium, were prepared. The hexanitrate lanthanum (cerium) salts with the latter two cations are the first CO-balanced energetic ionic liquids that are hydrolytically and air stable with impact sensitivities of ~27 J. For environmental considerations, these ionic liquids were obtained by a simple method using nitrate-containing precursors. All salts are fully characterized by IR, NMR, elemental analysis, thermal stability, phase behavior, density, and water content determinations. Based on theoretical calculations, these new compounds have potential as propellants.				
<b>15. SUBJECT TERMS</b>				
<b>16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:</b>		<b>17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT</b>	<b>18. NUMBER OF PAGES</b>	<b>19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON</b>
a. REPORT Unclassified		SAR	9	Dr. Jerry A. Boatz
b. ABSTRACT Unclassified				19b. TELEPHONE NUMBER (include area code) N/A
c. THIS PAGE Unclassified				

# Energetic Ionic Liquids Based on Anionic Rare Earth Nitrate Complexes (PREPRINT)

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**Abstract:** Energetic ionic liquids based on anionic rare earth nitrate complexes,  $\text{Cat}^+{}_3[\text{Ln}(\text{NO}_3)_6]{}^3-$ , where  $\text{Cat}^+$  is guanidinium, 4-amino-triazolium, 1-methyl-4-amino-triazolium, 1-ethyl-4-aminotriazolium, 1-butyl-4-aminotriazolium, 1,5-diamino-tetrazolium, and 1,5-diamino-4-methyltetrazolium, were prepared. The hexanitrate lanthanum (cerium) salts with the latter

two cations are the first CO-balanced energetic ionic liquids that are hydrolytically and air stable with impact sensitivities of ~27 J. For environmental considerations, these ionic liquids were obtained by a simple method using nitrate-containing precursors. All salts are fully characterized by IR, NMR, elemental analysis, thermal stability, phase

behavior, density, and water content determinations. Based on theoretical calculations, these new compounds have potential as propellants.

**Keywords:** CO-balanced · energetic ionic liquids · hydrolytically and air stable · rare-earth nitrate complexes · theoretical calculations

## Introduction

Ionic liquids are often considered as greener solvents, electrolytes, and advanced materials.<sup>[1]</sup> Compared with traditional energetic compounds, such as TNT, HMX, and RDX, many energetic ionic liquids were reported with several advantages, including enhanced thermal stability, higher densities, negligible vapor pressure, and little or no vapor toxicity.<sup>[2]</sup> In 2006, the first CO-balanced energetic ionic liquid, 1-ethyl-4,5-dimethyltetrazolium tetranitratooluminite, was reported.<sup>[3]</sup> The latter shows a glass transition temperature ( $T_g$ ) at -46 °C. However, it is only stable in dry air, and thus must be protected from water. At 75 °C, clear weight loss which is attributed to the loss of  $\text{NO}_2$  and oxygen and accompanied by the formation of Al-O-Al bridges was observed. Its initial preparation involved highly toxic and corrosive chemicals,  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$  and  $\text{NOCl}$ .

Ligands which coordinate *via* oxygen atoms to a rare earth metal ion give rise to stable complexes. Thus higher air and thermal stabilities may be obtained by introducing rare earth metal nitrates

as main components of ionic liquids. We now report new energetic ionic liquids based on anionic rare-earth nitrate complexes,  $\text{Cat}^+{}_3[\text{Ln}(\text{NO}_3)_6]{}^3-$ . Based on CO formation, some of these salts have a neutral or positive oxygen balance. Compounds **11** and **12** are the first CO-balanced energetic ionic liquids which are stable to moisture and air. Furthermore, important for ease of synthesis and for environmental reasons, these liquids are prepared by using readily available nitrate salts as precursors.

Lanthanide-doped ionic liquids exhibit interesting luminescent properties and good photochemical stability.<sup>[4]</sup> In addition to our present work, only one or two families of rare-earth metal ionic liquids have been prepared<sup>[5]</sup>, e. g., as inorganic polyoxometalate salts,  $\text{Na}_{13}[\text{Ln}(\text{TiW}_{11}\text{O}_{39})_2] \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $x$  varies between 27 and 44)<sup>[5a]</sup> or where the lanthanides are coordinated with the pseudohalide,  $\text{SCN}^-$  resulting in the hydrolytically unstable  $[\text{bmim}]\text{Ln}(\text{SCN})_7$ .<sup>[5b]</sup> However, the former exist as hydrates and are not stable in the absence of water of hydration and are not typical ionic liquids. The instability of  $[\text{bmim}]\text{Ln}(\text{SCN})_7$  to moisture and air also limits their applications. Since our new rare-earth ionic liquids do not present these difficulties, their potential for applications related to electrodeposition, catalysis, energetics or photophysics may be realized.

## Results and Discussion

The nitrate is a familiar stable ligand for rare earth metals.<sup>[6]</sup> It is an energetic oxidizing anion and may be the oxidizer component in energetic ionic liquids.<sup>[7]</sup> Rare earth metals coordinate with *O*-donor ligands more strongly than *N*-donor ligands,<sup>[8]</sup> e. g., in  $[\text{bmim}]\text{Ln}(\text{SCN})_7$  ionic liquids, ambient moisture will displace the isothiocyanate ligand irreversibly decomposing the ionic liquid.<sup>[5b]</sup> In our syntheses, as an example, guanidinium nitrate and lanthanum or cerium nitrate are dissolved in acetonitrile and refluxed with

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trimethyl orthoformate to give **1** or **2**. They are unchanged after being dissolved in water and dried in vacuum. Compounds **1** and **2** may be crystallized from water at room temperature to form colorless block-like crystals  $(\text{CH}_6\text{N}_3)_2[\text{La}(\text{NO}_3)_5(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ , (**1**) and  $(\text{CH}_6\text{N}_3)_2[\text{Ce}(\text{NO}_3)_5(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  (**2**). The crystal structure of **1** was reported earlier.<sup>[9]</sup>

Because of strong hydrogen bond interactions, the melting points of **1** and **2** exceed 100 °C. In order to reduce the melting points, substituted 1-amino-1,2,4-triazolium cations were introduced resulting in the formation of salts **5**-**10** using a minor modification of the literature method (Scheme 1).<sup>[10]</sup> Stoichiometric amounts of triazolium iodide,  $\text{AgNO}_3$  and lanthanum nitrate hexahydrate were refluxed in acetonitrile in the absence of light. After the silver iodide and the solvent were removed, a viscous liquid remained. These salts have the characteristics of room temperature ionic liquids. It was also our aim to increase the energy of these ionic liquids by selecting an energetic cation, such as the 1,5-diamino-4H-1,2,3,4-tetrazolium cation and 1,5-diamino-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrazolium cation. The melting points of the salts, **11** and **12**, which contain the latter cation are lower than 100 °C which places the salts in the ionic liquid class. This preparative method for metal nitrate complexes is a relatively green procedure not involving highly toxic or corrosive chemicals.

In the IR spectra of salts **5** and **8**, (Figure 1), the main N-O stretching modes of the rare-earth anions,  $[\text{Ln}(\text{NO}_3)_6]^{3-}$ , are observed at about 1450-1470  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 1320-1350  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 1034-1040  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 815-820  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  in each of the energetic ionic liquids. These bands are assigned to the N-O stretching modes  $\nu_4$ ,  $\nu_1$ ,  $\nu_2$ , and bending mode  $\nu_6$ . Bands,  $\nu_4$  and  $\nu_1$ , are assigned to the N-O asymmetrical stretching vibration. Band  $\nu_2$  is composed of the N-O symmetrical stretching vibration and  $\nu_6$  is the out-of-plane bending vibration.<sup>[11]</sup> These bands are characteristic of chelating bidentate nitrate ligands.<sup>[12]</sup> Generally, the  $v_3(E')$  of  $D_{3h}$  point group in the symmetric nitrate ion gives an IR absorbance band around 1385  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>[11]</sup> When the oxygen atoms of the nitrate group coordinate with a rare earth metal, the N-O asymmetrical stretching vibration is perturbed and has two different stretching modes. Therefore, in the system with bidentate nitrate ligands,  $\nu_3$  is split into two peaks,  $\nu_4$  and  $\nu_1$ . In the  $\text{Cat}^+_{3}[\text{Ln}(\text{NO}_3)_6]^{3-}$  ionic liquids, the band separation  $\nu_4-\nu_1$  approaches 130  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . This distinguishes them from general nitrate ionic liquids which have no coordination structure.<sup>[13]</sup> Furthermore, no other N-O stretching mode was found. It shows that all six of the nitrate ligands coordinated to each of the rare earth metals are bidentate.

The salts,  $\text{Cat}^+_{3}[\text{Ln}(\text{NO}_3)_6]^{3-}$ , are thermally stable over the range of 185 to 235 °C in ambient nitrogen. In these new salts, the different cations play a more important role than the anion in determining the decomposition temperatures because they are less stable than the anions. As a whole, they are generally sufficiently thermally stable to meet the criterion for energetic compounds. It can be seen from Table 1 that all of the  $\text{Cat}^+_{3}[\text{Ln}(\text{NO}_3)_6]^{3-}$  salts, **3** to **12**, are ionic liquids. The melting points/glass transition temperatures ( $T_m/T_g$ ) were determined by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) from the first heating cycle. As the temperature is increased, the solid samples exhibit distinct melting points ( $T_m$ ). The DSC curves of some solid samples, **1** ( $T_m$  137 °C), **4** ( $T_m$  76 °C), and **12** ( $T_m$  90 °C), are given in Figure 2. However, on warming from -70 °C, liquid samples, **5** – **10**, behave differently. Each of them displays a gradual step associated with a phase transition temperature,  $T_g$ , between -20 to -40 °C. Since there is no sharp

endothermic peak that can be associated with melting as was observed in the liquid samples, **5** was taken as representative and examined further. When **5** was cooled to -70 °C, it became a glassy, transparent solid. After being warmed to > -25 °C, it gradually became a very viscous transparent liquid. This indicates that below their glass transition temperatures, they exhibit a glass-like character similar to that of conventional ionic liquids.<sup>[14]</sup> Furthermore, different cations clearly affect the  $T_m$  and  $T_g$ . When the substituent on the 1-amino-1,2,4-triazolium cation was H or  $\text{CH}_3$ , the product **3** or **5** has a very different phase transition point; however, as expected the difference in this property among alkyl substituent groups ( $\text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$  and  $\text{C}_4\text{H}_9$ ) is trivial. This phenomenon arises from the greater opportunity for hydrogen bonding in the case of **3**. Although **3**, **4**, **11**, and **12** are solids, they readily form long-lived supercooled phases and solidify only after standing at room temperature for several days.

The densities of these rare earth ionic liquids vary from ~ 1.6 to 2.1  $\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$  with **11** and **12** being the most dense at 2.1  $\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$ . The 1,5-diamino-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrazolium cation has a major impact on enhancing the density. In these  $\text{Cat}^+_{3}[\text{Ln}(\text{NO}_3)_6]^{3-}$  ionic liquids, the ratio of cation to anion is 3:1. In this case, the nitrogen content in each molecule will be improved since the majority of the nitrogen atoms are present in the cation. The calculated nitrogen content for the CO-balanced aluminum-containing ionic liquid is 28 %,<sup>[3]</sup> while the nitrogen content of CO-balanced salts **11** and **12** is ~40 %. This will advance the energetic performance of our new compounds.

These ionic liquids are hydrophilic and are soluble in water and low alcohols. Their water content was determined by using a Karl-Fischer coulometer. The water content, determined after the ionic liquid was dried under vacuum, ranges between 1900-4500 ppm. This is slightly higher than that found in conventional ionic liquids.<sup>[13, 15]</sup> However, water does not affect the structure of these salts. In aqueous solution, the IR spectra show the absorbance peak at 1385  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  which is assignable to the nitrate anion. After the liquids were dried, the infrared spectral absorbance peaks of the bidentate nitrate ligands near 1450  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and 1325  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  reappeared concomitantly. At the same time, the peak at 1385  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  disappeared. This is a reversible process and indicates that these materials are moisture stable ionic liquids.

Oxygen balance shows the deficiency or excess of oxygen in an energetic compound. In order to be a CO-balanced ionic liquid, the oxygen present must convert all of the C to CO, all of the H to  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , and all of the rare earth metal to  $\text{Ln}_2\text{O}_3$ . The  $\text{OB}_{\text{CO}}(\%)$  data of these ionic liquids are shown in Table 1. The  $\text{OB}_{\text{CO}}$  of **11** and **12** are zero, which indicates they are CO-balanced ionic liquids. When 1 mg **11** was heated to 200 °C in a micro melting point apparatus, gases rapidly evolved to leave white lanthanum oxide powder. The decomposition process is in accord with the predicted idealized combustion process.



The theoretical performance of  $\text{Cat}^+_{3}[\text{Ln}(\text{NO}_3)_6]^{3-}$  as propellants can be estimated from data calculated by the GAMESS<sup>[16]</sup> and Gaussian 03 (Revision D.01) suites of programs. The heats of formation of the anions ( $\Delta H_f^\circ(\text{anion})$ ) were estimated based on the gas-phase experimental heats of formation of  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{F}^-$ ,  $\text{Cl}^-$ ,  $\text{LaF}_4^-$  and  $\text{LaCl}_4^-$ . Geometry optimizations and single-point calculations of the lanthanum-containing anions were performed using second-

order many body perturbation theory (MBPT(2),<sup>[17]</sup> also known as MP2) in conjunction with the averaged relativistic effective core potentials (AREP) and the corresponding uncontracted valence-only basis sets.<sup>[18, 19]</sup> For the cerium-containing anions, the Stevens, Basch, Krauss, Jaisen, and Cundari (SBKJC) effective core potentials and corresponding valence-only basis sets<sup>[20]</sup> were used. The AREP and SBKJC basis sets for carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, fluorine, and chlorine were augmented with a diffuse s+p shell<sup>[21]</sup> and a d-type polarization function.<sup>[22]</sup> The heat of formation of the cations [ $\Delta H_f^o$  (cation)] was determined by using the method of isodesmic reactions (Figure 3).<sup>[23]</sup> The geometric optimization and the frequency analyses are carried out at the level of Becke three Lee-Yan-Parr (B3LYP) parameters up to 6-31+G(d,p) basis sets.<sup>[24]</sup> Single energy points were calculated at the MP2/6-31++G(d,p) level.<sup>[17a, b]</sup> Estimated of heats of formation are obtained based on Born-Haber energy cycles (Equation I).<sup>[23]</sup> The lattice energy ( $\Delta H_L$ ) is predicted by the formula suggested by Jenkins et al. (Equations II and III).<sup>[25]</sup>

$$\Delta H_f^o(\text{ionic salts, 298K}) = \sum \Delta H_f^o(\text{cation, 298K}) + \sum \Delta H_f^o(\text{anion, 298K}) - \Delta H_L \quad (\text{I})$$

$$\Delta H_L = U_{\text{POT}} + [p(n_M/2 - 2) + q(n_X/2 - 2)]RT \quad (\text{II})$$

$$U_{\text{POT}}/\text{kJ mol}^{-1} = 2342.6 * I^*(\rho_m/M_m)^{1/3} + 55.2 * I \quad (\text{III})$$

The heats of formation for  $\text{Cat}^+_{\text{3}}[\text{Ln}(\text{NO}_3)_6]^{3-}$  were calculated and are summarized in Table 1. Compound 14 has the highest value. The data show the performance of  $\text{Cat}^+_{\text{3}}[\text{Ln}(\text{NO}_3)_6]^{3-}$  may be better than some important energetic materials, such as hydrazine.<sup>[3]</sup>

The impact sensitivity of 11 and 12 were measured by using a BAM method.<sup>[26]</sup> The impact sensitivities of 11 and 12 are both 27 J (3/6 explosions and 2/6 explosions). This shows they are impact sensitive energetic materials.<sup>[27]</sup>

## Conclusions

The anionic rare earth nitrate complexes were found to be suitable anions to prepare energetic ionic liquids. The ionic liquids,  $\text{Cat}^+_{\text{3}}[\text{Ln}(\text{NO}_3)_6]^{3-}$ , are obtained by an environmental benign

preparative method using nitrate salts. Compounds 11 and 12 are the first CO-balanced metal ionic liquids which are stable to moisture and in air. Based on theoretical calculations, these liquids are potential propellants. Their thermal stabilities, phase behavior, densities, and water content have been investigated. Salts,  $\text{Cat}^+_{\text{3}}[\text{Ln}(\text{NO}_3)_6]^{3-}$ , may retain rare-earth metals in a stable liquid, thus possessing potential for applications related to electrodeposition, catalysis, or photophysics.

## Experimental Section

**Caution:** We have not experienced any problems in handling these compounds. With the exception of 11 and 12, their shock and impact sensitivities have not been determined. Therefore, they should be synthesized in less than one mmol amounts and handled with extreme care.

**General Methods.** All chemicals were pure analytical grade materials obtained commercially and used as received. IR spectra were recorded using KBr plates for neat liquids and KBr pellets for solids using a Biorad model 3000 FTS spectrometer.  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 300 MHz nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer operating at 300 and 75 MHz, respectively, by using  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  or  $d_6\text{-DMSO}$  as a locking solvent. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm relative to TMS. The densities of the solid salts were measured at 25 °C using a Micromeritics Accupyc 1330 gas pycnometer. Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) measurements were performed using a calorimeter equipped with an autocool accessory and calibrated using indium. The following procedure was used in experiments for each sample: cooling from 40 °C to -80 °C and heating to 400 °C at 10 °C/min. Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) measurements were carried out by heating samples at 10 °C/min from 25 to 500 °C in a dynamic nitrogen atmosphere (flow rate 70 mL/min). Elemental analyses (H, C, N) were performed on a CE-440 Elemental Analyzer. The metal content was determined by EDTA titration. The water content was determined by coulometric Karl-Fischer titration using a Mettler Toledo DL39 Coulometer with a Hydranal® Coulomat AG reagent. Computations were performed by using the Gaussian 03 (Revision D.01) suite of programs.<sup>[28]</sup>

**Triguaniidinium hexanitratolanthanum, 1.** Guanidinium nitrate (3 mmol, 366 mg) and lanthanum nitrate hexahydrate (1 mmol, 433 mg) were refluxed in acetonitrile for 12 h. An excess of triethyl orthoformate was added during reflux to remove coordinated water. After being concentrated in vacuo, the resulting crude solid was washed from acetonitrile/ethyl ether. A quantitative yield of 1 as a white solid was obtained after drying under vacuum (692 mg). IR (KBr): 3493, 3417, 3383, 3214, 1695, 1660, 1581, 1472, 1420, 1355, 1323, 1294, 1034, 816, 743, 525  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ): 167.1; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_{18}\text{LaN}_{15}\text{O}_{18}$  (MW 691.17): C, 5.21; H, 2.62; N, 30.40; La 20.10; Found: C, 5.80; H, 2.86; N, 30.01; La, 20.11.

**Triguaniidinium hexanitratocerium, 2.** The same procedure was used as for 1. Guanidinium nitrate (3 mmol, 366 mg) and cerium nitrate hexahydrate (1 mmol, 434 mg) were used to obtain a quantitative yield of 2 as a white solid (692 mg). IR (KBr):

**Table 1.** Properties of  $\text{Cat}^+_{\text{3}}[\text{Ln}(\text{NO}_3)_6]^{3-}$

Ionic liquid	$T_m$ ( $T_g$ ) <sup>a</sup> (°C)	$T_d$ <sup>b</sup> (°C)	$d^c$ (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	$\text{OB}_{\text{CO}}$ <sup>d</sup> (%)	$\Delta H_f^e$ (cation) (kJ/mol)	$\Delta H_f^f$ (anion) (kJ/mol)	$\Delta H_L^g$ (kJ/mol)	$\Delta H_f^h$ (kJ/mol)	$\Delta H_f^h$ (kJ/g)
1	137	225	1.95	10.4	575.9	-1924.5	2327.2	-2524.0	-3.65
2	138	220	1.96	10.4	575.9	-1911.6	2329.4	-2513.3	-3.63
3	81	211	1.87	6.3	910.7	-1924.5	2233.5	-1425.9	-1.86
4	76	212	1.88	6.3	910.7	-1911.6	2235.9	-1415.4	-1.84
5	(-24)	231	1.76	-5.9	866.6	-1924.5	2162.9	-1487.6	-1.84
6	(-28)	227	1.77	-5.9	866.6	-1911.6	2165.4	-1477.2	-1.82
7	(-32)	232	1.67	-16.9	828.2	-1924.5	2101.3	-1541.2	-1.81
8	(-33)	228	1.67	-16.9	828.2	-1911.6	2100.4	-1527.4	-1.79
9	(-33)	229	1.59	-36.0	782.6	-1924.5	2019.1	-1595.8	-1.71
10	(-37)	230	1.60	-35.9	782.6	-1911.6	2021.9	-1585.7	-1.69
11	88	185	2.06	0	974.3	-1924.5	2224.4	-1226.0	-1.43
12	90	187	2.08	0	974.3	-1911.6	2229.6	-1218.3	-1.42
13	-	187	2.00	11.79	1018.0	-1924.5	2237.6	-1108.1	-1.36
14	-	188	2.02	11.77	1018.0	-1911.6	2242.9	-1100.5	-1.35
OB-EIL <sup>3</sup>			0	836	-1486	419	-1069	-2.66	

<sup>a</sup> Melting point/phase transition temperature. <sup>b</sup> Thermal degradation. <sup>c</sup> Density, gas pycnometer, 25 °C. <sup>d</sup> CO oxygen balance  $\text{OB}_{\text{CO}}(\%)$ —index of the deficiency or excess of oxygen in a compound required to convert all C into CO, all H into  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and all rare earth metals to metal oxides. For a compound with the molecular formula of  $\text{C}_a\text{H}_b\text{N}_c\text{O}_d\text{M}_e$ ,  $\text{OB}_{\text{CO}}(\%) = 1600[(d-a\cdot b/2-3e/2)/\text{MW}]$  (M, rare earth metal; MW, molecular weight of salt). <sup>e</sup> Molar enthalpy of the formation of cation. <sup>f</sup> Molar enthalpy of the formation of anion. <sup>g</sup> Lattice energy. <sup>h</sup> Molar enthalpy of the formation of salt.<sup>i</sup> Reference 3

3493, 3416, 3380, 3214, 1693, 1660, 1580, 1472, 1418, 1358, 1325, 1296, 1035, 815, 743, 522  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ): 166.9; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_{18}\text{CeN}_{15}\text{O}_{18}$  (MW 692.38): C, 5.20; H, 2.62; N, 30.34; Ce 20.24; Found: C, 5.39; H, 3.01; N, 30.24; Ce, 20.13.

**Tri(4-amino-1H-1,2,4-triazolium) hexanitratolanthanum, 3.** The same procedure was used as for 1. 4-Amino-1H-1,2,4-triazolium nitrate (3 mmol, 441 mg) and lanthanum nitrate hexahydrate (1 mmol, 433 mg) were used to obtain a quantitative yield of 3 as a colorless viscous transparent liquid (760 mg) which became a light yellow solid after standing at 25 °C for one week. IR (KBr): 3397, 3144, 1635, 1458, 1341, 1075, 1038, 939, 879, 825, 738, 617  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 8.97 (s, 2H), 3.84 (br, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 145.1; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{15}\text{LaN}_{18}\text{O}_{18}$  (MW 766.20): C, 9.41; H, 1.97; N, 32.91; La 18.13; Found: C, 9.53; H, 2.06; N, 33.66; La, 17.91.

**Tri(4-amino-1H-1,2,4-triazolium) hexanitratocerium, 4.** The same procedure was used as for 1. 4-Amino-1H-1,2,4-triazolium nitrate (3 mmol, 441 mg) and cerium nitrate hexahydrate (1 mmol, 434 mg) were used to obtain a quantitative yield of 4 as a colorless viscous transparent liquid (764 mg) which became a light yellow solid after one week at 25 °C. IR (KBr): 3200, 3136, 1636, 1456, 1323, 1075, 1039, 934, 878, 816, 738, 621  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 8.98 (s, 2H), 3.20 (br, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 145.2; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{15}\text{CeN}_{18}\text{O}_{18}$  (MW 767.41): C, 9.39; H, 1.97; N, 32.85; Ce 18.26; Found: C, 9.57; H, 1.96; N, 32.67; Ce, 18.13.

**Tri(4-amino-1-methyl-1,2,4-triazolium) hexanitratolanthanum, 5.** The basic technique used follows closely that employed in the literature in preparing the tetrabutyl ammonium hexanitrate complexes.<sup>[10]</sup> 4-Amino-1-methyl-1,2,4-triazolium iodide was obtained *via* a minor modification procedure of literature methods.<sup>[29]</sup> A mixture of 4-amino-1,2,4-triazole (2 mmol, 168 mg) and iodomethane (2 mmol, 284 mg) in acetonitrile (20 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 5 d. The solution was concentrated and added to excess ethyl acetate (3-5 x volume of solution). After decanting the solvent, the residual solvent was removed from the lower layer in vacuo, to obtain a white solid (442 mg, 98%). IR (KBr) 3484, 3223, 3119, 1609, 1567, 1443, 1405, 1170, 1067, 973, 867, 730, 610  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 9.54 (s, 1H), 8.66 (s, 1H), 6.15 (s, 2H), 4.06 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 145.9, 143.9, 40.1. 1-Methyl-4-amino-1,2,4-triazolium iodide (0.3 mmol, 68 mg),  $\text{AgNO}_3$  (0.3 mmol, 51 mg) and lanthanum nitrate hexahydrate (0.1 mmol, 43 mg) were held at reflux in acetonitrile for 12 h with complete exclusion of light. An excess of triethyl orthoformate was added during reflux to remove coordinated water. After the silver iodide was filtered off, the filtrate was concentrated. The resulting crude liquid was purified by dissolving in methanol (~10 mL), filtered, and the filtrate was added to ethyl ether (3-5 x volume of filtrate). The mixture was shaken, allowed to separate, and the top layer was decanted off. The process is repeated as necessary to ensure removal of the traces of silver iodide. Light yellow viscous liquid 5 was obtained after being dried under vacuum. Yield: 36 mg (45%). IR (KBr): 3332, 3241, 3148, 1632, 1574, 1454, 1325, 1172, 1072, 1038, 981, 877, 819, 735, 615  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 9.43 (s, 1H), 8.58 (s, 1H), 6.13 (br, 2H), 4.07 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 145.9, 144.0, 40.0; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{21}\text{LaN}_{18}\text{O}_{18}$  (MW 808.28): C, 13.37; H, 2.62; N, 31.19; La, 17.19; Found: C, 13.42; H, 2.63; N, 31.27; La, 17.19.

**Tri(4-amino-1-methyl-1,2,4-triazolium) hexanitratocerium, 6.** The same procedure was used as for 5. 4-Amino-1-methyl-1,2,4-triazolium iodide (0.3 mmol, 68 mg),  $\text{AgNO}_3$  (0.3 mmol, 51 mg) and cerium nitrate hexahydrate (0.1 mmol, 43 mg) were used to obtain a light yellow viscous liquid 6. Yield: 39 mg (48%). IR (KBr): 3338, 3238, 3148, 1634, 1574, 1456, 1323, 1172, 1073, 1038, 981, 878, 818, 736, 616  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 9.62 (s, 1H), 8.71 (s, 1H), 6.30 (br, 2H), 4.20 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 146.0, 144.2, 40.2; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{21}\text{CeN}_{18}\text{O}_{18}$  (MW 809.49): C, 13.35; H, 2.61; N, 31.05; Ce, 17.31; Found: C, 13.68; H, 2.56; N, 30.90; Ce, 17.25.

**Tri(4-amino-1-ethyl-1,2,4-triazolium) hexanitratolanthanum, 7.** The same procedure was used as for 5. 4-Amino-1-ethyl-1,2,4-triazolium iodide was prepared *via* the method used for 4-amino-1-methyl-1,2,4-triazolium iodide. A mixture of 4-amino-1,2,4-triazole (2 mmol, 168 mg) and iodoethane (2 mmol, 312 mg) in acetonitrile (20 mL) was reacted at 50 °C for 1 d. The solution was concentrated and added to excess ethyl acetate (3-5 x volume of solution). After decanting the solvent, any residual solvent was removed from the lower layer in vacuo, to obtain a yellow liquid, 7 (462 mg, 96%). IR (KBr) 3455, 3233, 3121, 3051, 1621, 1560, 1449, 1406, 1165, 1074, 989, 964, 872, 722, 619  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 9.89 (s, 1H), 8.81 (s, 1H), 6.39 (s, 2H), 4.43 (t, 2H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 1.53 (t, 3H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 146.1, 143.3, 49.2, 14.2. 4-Amino-1-ethyl-1,2,4-triazolium iodide (0.3 mmol, 72 mg),  $\text{AgNO}_3$  (0.3 mmol, 51 mg) and lanthanum nitrate hexahydrate (0.1 mmol, 43 mg) were used to obtain colorless viscous liquid 7. Yield: 47 mg (55%). IR (KBr): 3332, 3233, 3135, 1631, 1566, 1459, 1323, 1198, 1167, 1075, 1038, 990, 872, 819, 735, 621  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 9.46 (s, 1H), 8.61 (s, 1H), 4.40 (t, 2H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 3.68 (br, 2H), 1.53 (t, 3H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 145.9, 143.2, 49.1, 13.9; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{27}\text{LaN}_{18}\text{O}_{18}$  (MW 850.36): C, 16.95; H, 3.20; N, 29.65; La, 16.33; Found: C, 17.01; H, 3.50; N, 29.68; La, 16.29.

**Tri(4-amino-1-ethyl-1,2,4-triazolium) hexanitratocerium, 8.** The same procedure was used as for 7. 4-Amino-1-ethyl-1,2,4-triazolium iodide (0.3 mmol, 72 mg),  $\text{AgNO}_3$

(0.3 mmol, 51 mg) and cerium nitrate hexahydrate (0.1 mmol, 43 mg) were reacted to obtain colorless viscous liquid 8. Yield: 45 mg (53%). IR (KBr): 3335, 3239, 3139, 1634, 1567, 1470, 1313, 1209, 1165, 1076, 1038, 992, 878, 819, 737, 621  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 9.72 (s, 1H), 8.75 (s, 1H), 4.52 (t, 2H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 2.73 (br, 2H), 1.61 (t, 3H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 145.3, 143.5, 49.3, 14.0; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{27}\text{CeN}_{18}\text{O}_{18}$  (MW 851.57): C, 16.93; H, 3.20; N, 29.61; Ce, 16.45; Found: C, 15.94; H, 3.32; N, 29.62; Ce, 16.32.

**Tri(4-amino-1-butyl-1,2,4-triazolium) hexanitratolanthanum, 9.** The same procedure was used as for 5. 4-Amino-1-butyl-1,2,4-triazolium iodide was prepared according to the similar method as for 4-amino-1-methyl-1,2,4-triazolium iodide. A mixture of 4-amino-1,2,4-triazole (2 mmol, 168 mg) and iodobutane (2 mmol, 368 mg) in acetonitrile (20 mL) was stirred at 70 °C for 12 h. The solution was concentrated and added to excess ethyl acetate (3-5 x volume of solution). After decanting the solvent, any residual solvent was removed from the lower layer in vacuo, to obtain a yellow liquid (516 mg, 96%). IR (KBr) 3460, 3246, 3120, 2961, 2874, 1622, 1561, 1524, 1462, 1407, 1381, 1163, 1073, 988, 864, 755, 617  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 9.87 (s, 1H), 8.77 (s, 1H), 6.40 (s, 2H), 4.39 (t, 2H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 1.86–1.97 (m, 2H), 1.34–1.42 (m, 2H), 0.95 (t, 3H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 146.1, 143.6, 53.4, 31.1, 19.8, 13.6. 4-Amino-1-butyl-1,2,4-triazolium iodide (0.3 mmol, 80 mg),  $\text{AgNO}_3$  (0.3 mmol, 51 mg) and lanthanum nitrate hexahydrate (0.1 mmol, 43 mg) were used to obtain colorless viscous liquid 9. Yield: 49 mg (52%). IR (KBr): 3333, 3220, 3131, 2965, 2877, 1643, 1562, 1450, 1322, 1142, 1073, 1034, 993, 871, 820, 734, 631  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 9.46 (s, 1H), 8.60 (s, 1H), 6.11 (br, 2H), 4.37 (t, 2H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 1.86–1.92 (m, 2H), 1.35–1.42 (m, 2H), 0.97 (t, 3H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 146.0, 143.5, 53.4, 31.1, 19.8, 13.5; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{39}\text{LaN}_{18}\text{O}_{18}$  (MW 934.52): C, 23.13; H, 4.21; N, 26.98; La, 14.86; Found: C, 23.04; H, 3.97; N, 27.13; La, 14.71.

**Tri(4-amino-1-butyl-1,2,4-triazolium) hexanitratocerium, 10.** The same procedure was used as for 9. 4-Amino-1-butyl-1,2,4-triazolium iodide (0.3mmol, 80 mg),  $\text{AgNO}_3$  (0.3 mmol, 51 mg) and cerium nitrate hexahydrate (0.1 mmol, 43 mg) were used to obtain colorless viscous liquid 10. Yield: 52 mg (56%). IR (KBr): 3332, 3231, 3137, 2964, 2876, 1635, 1565, 1450, 1321, 1165, 1076, 1037, 990, 877, 819, 735, 618  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 9.73 (s, 1H), 8.73 (s, 1H), 6.30 (br, 2H), 4.50 (t, 2H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz), 1.96–2.05 (m, 2H), 1.38–1.50 (m, 2H), 1.00 (t, 3H,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 146.1, 143.7, 53.5, 31.2, 19.8, 13.5; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{39}\text{CeN}_{18}\text{O}_{18}$  (MW 935.73): C, 23.10; H, 4.20; N, 26.94; Ce, 14.97; Found: C, 23.08; H, 4.34; N, 27.23; Ce, 14.59.

**Tri(1,5-diamino-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrazolium) hexanitratolanthanum, 11.** The same procedure was used as for 5. 1,5-Diamino-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrazolium iodide was obtained *via* a minor modification of the literature procedure.<sup>[30]</sup> A mixture of 1,5-diamino-1,2,3,4-tetrazole (2 mmol, 0.200 mg) and an excess of iodomethane (10 mmol, 1.42 g) in acetonitrile (60 mL) was refluxed for 18 h. The solution was concentrated and added to excess ether (5 x volume of solution). The crude product was gotten by filtration. After washing by ether, any residual solvent was removed in vacuo, to obtain a white solid (430 mg, 89%). IR (KBr): 3240, 3090, 1700, 1609, 1571, 1390, 1115, 1025, 785, 605, 522  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 7.65 (s), 6.12 (s, 2H), 4.00 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR: 152.6, 36.7, 1.5-Diamino-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrazolium iodide (0.3 mmol, 73 mg),  $\text{AgNO}_3$  (0.3 mmol, 51 mg) and lanthanum nitrate hexahydrate (0.1 mmol, 43 mg) were used to obtain the colorless viscous liquid 11, which became a white solid after standing for three days. Yield: 41 mg (48%). IR (KBr): 3335, 3233, 3055, 1700, 1616, 1451, 1352, 1118, 1037, 912, 818, 735, 581  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 7.61 (s), 6.02 (s, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 149.0, 35.6; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{21}\text{LaN}_2\text{O}_{18}$  (MW 856.28): C, 8.42; H, 2.47; N, 39.26; La, 16.22; Found: C, 8.43; H, 2.52; N, 38.38; La, 16.11.

**Tri(1,5-diamino-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrazolium) hexanitratocerium, 12.** The same procedure was used as for 11. 1,5-Diamino-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrazolium iodide (0.3 mmol, 73 mg),  $\text{AgNO}_3$  (0.3 mmol, 51 mg) and cerium nitrate hexahydrate (0.1 mmol, 43 mg) were used to obtain the colorless viscous liquid 12 which became a white solid after standing at 25 °C for one day. Yield: 43 mg (50%). IR (KBr): 3339, 3260, 3050, 1700, 1617, 1459, 1350, 1118, 1038, 909, 818, 736, 576  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 7.61 (s), 6.12 (s, 2H), 3.96 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): 149.1, 35.7; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{21}\text{CeN}_2\text{O}_{18}$  (MW 857.49): C, 8.40; H, 2.47; N, 39.20; Ce, 16.34; Found: C, 8.36; H, 2.49; N, 38.72; Ce, 16.32.

**Tri(1,5-diamino-4-H-1,2,3,4-tetrazolium) hexanitratolanthanum, 13.** The same procedure was used as for 1. 1,5-Diamino-4-H-1,2,3,4-tetrazolium nitrate was obtained based on the literature procedure.<sup>[30]</sup> 1,5-Diamino-4-H-1,2,3,4-tetrazolium nitrate (0.15 mmol, 27 mg), and lanthanum nitrate hexahydrate (0.05 mmol, 22 mg) were used to obtain the white solid 13. Yield: 47 mg (96%). IR (KBr): 3324, 3273, 3156, 1721, 1658, 1467, 1330, 1110, 1038, 1004, 932, 816, 742, 689, 627  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $d_6\text{-DMSO}$ ): 4.83 (s);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $d_6\text{-DMSO}$ ): 155.2; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{21}\text{LaN}_2\text{O}_{18}$  (MW 856.28): C, 4.43; H, 1.86; N, 41.29; La, 17.06; Found: C, 4.77; H, 1.85; N, 41.09; La, 16.91.

**Tri(1,5-diamino-4-H-1,2,3,4-tetrazolium) hexanitratocerium, 14.** The same procedure was used as for 13. 1,5-Diamino-4-H-1,2,3,4-tetrazolium nitrate (0.15 mmol, 27 mg), and lanthanum nitrate hexahydrate (0.05 mmol, 22 mg) were used to obtain the

white solid **14**. Yield: 48 mg (98%). IR (KBr): 3343, 3266, 1717, 1629, 1466, 1329, 1130, 1037, 998, 925, 817, 740, 690, 623  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $d_6$ -DMSO): 4.95 (s);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $d_6$ -DMSO): 155.4; Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{21}\text{CeN}_{24}\text{O}_{18}$  (MW 857.49): C, 4.42; H, 1.85; N, 41.23; Ce, 17.18; Found: C, 4.67; H, 1.84; N, 41.12; Ce, 17.12.

## Acknowledgements

The authors gratefully acknowledge the support of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (HDTRA1-07-1-0024), the National Science Foundation (CHE-0315275), and the Office of Naval Research (N00014-06-1-1032), as well as a grant of computer time from the Department of Defense High Performance Computing Modernization Program.

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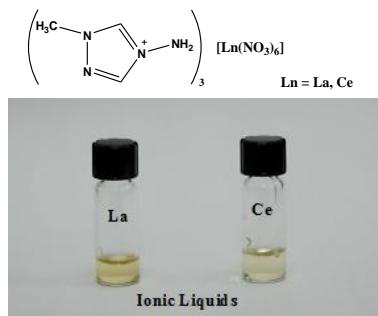
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## Rare earth ionic liquids

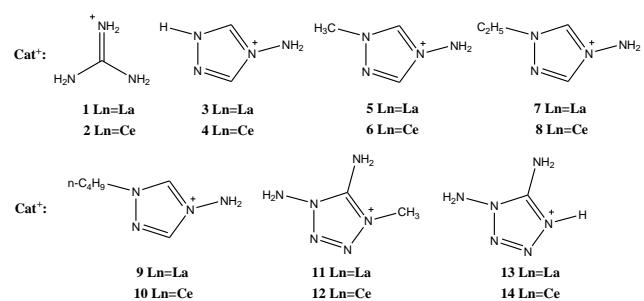
Guo-Hong Tao, Yangen Huang, Jerry A. Boatz, Jean 'ne M. Shreeve\*

### Energetic Ionic Liquids based on Anionic Rare Earth Nitrate Complexes

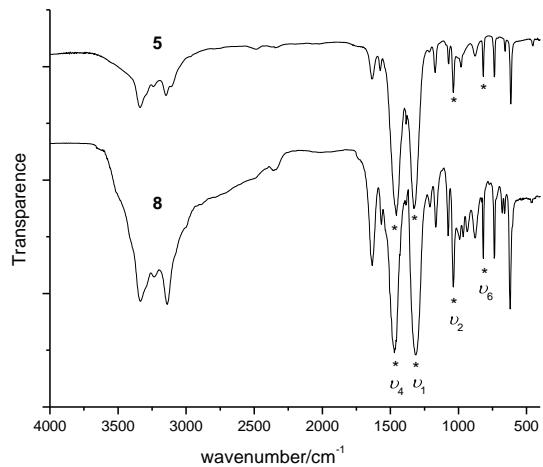


A novel series of energetic ionic liquids based on anionic rare earth nitrate complexes,  $\text{Cat}^+_{3!}[\text{Ln}(\text{NO}_3)_6]^{3-}$ , were synthesized and characterized. Theoretical calculations show that the new salts may be considered to be potential propellants.

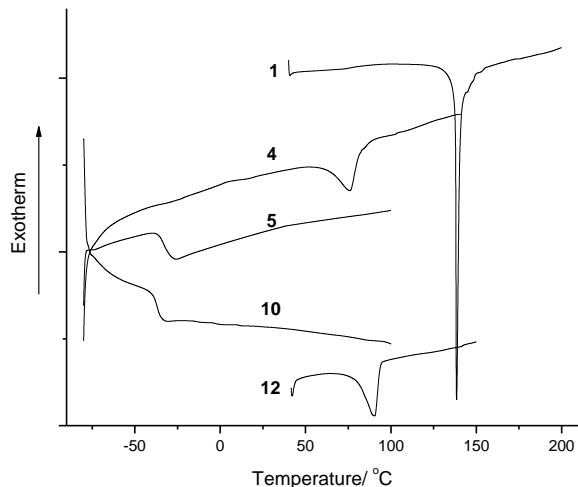
**Scheme 1.** Structures of ionic liquids based on anionic rare-earth nitrate complexes  
 $\text{Cat}^+ \cdot \text{Ln}(\text{NO}_3)_6^{3-}$



**Figure 1.** IR spectra of **5** and **8**. The stars mark the typical N-O vibration bands of the  $[\text{LnNO}_3]^{3-}$  anions.



**Figure 2.** DSC curves of some typical ionic liquids,  $\text{Cat}^+ \cdot \text{Ln}(\text{NO}_3)_6^{3-}$ .



**Figure 3.** Isodesmic reactions and protonation reactions for the heats of formation of cations.

